

REMARKS

Claims 1 and 12 are amended to more clearly define the invention. It is respectfully submitted that no new matter is added. It is believed that this Amendment is fully responsive to the Office Action dated September 15, 2009.

In the Office Action, Claim 12 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph, for failing to comply with the written description requirement. Removal of this rejection is respectfully requested in view of the amendment to Claim 12.

In the Office Action, Claims 1-7 and 11 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as anticipated by or, in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as obvious over Forte et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,071,651). Reconsideration and removal of this rejection are respectfully requested in view of the present claim amendments and the following remarks.

The present invention teaches that the fiber orientation is at random in the longitudinal and the cross direction of the separator and that the randomness in the longitudinal and the cross direction is uniform from one surface of the separator to the other surface of the separator (that is in the direction of thickness of the separator).

It is known in the art that the "wet process" produces a separator having short glass fibers with substantially no entangled glass fibers (see Zguris column 5, line 50 to column 7, line 18).

It is respectfully submitted that both Forte et al. (see Abstract) and Zguris (see column 7,

lines 10-11) teach a separator having entangled fibers.

It is respectfully submitted that the present invention does not teach to have entangled fibers, as they are not found in a separator made by the wet process.

Claim 1 is presently amended to include that the paper sheet is substantially free of entangled glass fibers, so as to distinguish over cited references.

In view of the amendment to Claim 1, and the above remarks, removal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

In the Office Action, Claim 12 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Forte et al. Reconsideration and removal of this rejection are respectfully requested in view of the present claim amendment and the following remarks.

Claim 12 has been amended in a manner similar to that of Claim 1.

In view of the amendment to Claim 12, and the above remarks, removal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

In the Office Action, Claim 10 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Forte et al. as applied to Claims 1-9 and 11 above, and further in view of Zguris (U.S. Patent No. 6,306,539). Reconsideration and removal of this rejection are respectfully requested in view of the present claim amendments and the following remarks.

Claim 10 depends from Claim 1, which is discussed above.

In view of the amendment to Claim 1, and the above remarks, removal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

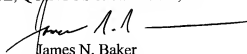
In view of the aforementioned amendments and accompanying remarks, Claims 1-7 and 10-12, as amended, are believed to be patentable and in condition for allowance, which action, at an early date, is requested.

If, for any reason, it is felt that this application is not now in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact the Applicants' undersigned agent at the telephone number indicated below to arrange for an interview to expedite the disposition of this case.

In the event that this paper is not timely filed, the Applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time. Please charge any fees for such an extension of time and any other fees which may be due with respect to this paper, to Deposit Account No. 01-2340.

Respectfully submitted,

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